Attorney Docket No.: 50277-0258

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph at lines 4-7 of page 3 of the Specification with the following paragraph:

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/408,847 entitled METHOD AND ARTICLE FOR MANAGING REFERENCES TO EXTERNAL OBJECTS IN A RUNTIME ENVIRONMENT, filed in September 30, 1999 by Harlan Sexton *et al.*